

Eastern MRS Meeting  
August 29, 2005  
Wilson County

Counties Present: *Beaufort*, Bladen, Brunswick, *Carteret*, *Chowan*, Craven, Currituck, Edgecombe, Franklin, Halifax, Harnett, *Hyde*, Nash, *Onslow*, Pasquotank, *Pender*, *Pitt*, *Robeson*, Scotland, Wake, Warren, Wilson  
(Counties that are not currently MRS counties are italicized.)

State Staff: Tony Troop, Holly McNeill, Kate Johnson, Tony Amos, Susan Moss, Diane Chavis, Kim Harman, Heather Thomas, (from the Family Centered Meeting Project): Susan Gasman, Tee Henderson

### **Agenda**

Introduction

News from Raleigh

    New Staff, Legislative Update

Child & Family Team Meetings

    Who Facilitates, How do you pay for outside facilitators, How are they working, What do the initial meetings look like, Defining CFTs.

New Staff in Raleigh

- Tomica Williams has taken Amelia Lance's position
- Kate Johnson in Data Management (works with System of Care and IV-E Waiver), and Andrea Stein (temp filling in for Pam)

Legislation

- Appeals Process took out the line saying the substantiation letter had to be delivered by the sheriff.
- Sexual Battery is added to the sexual registry, also will have to provide DNA if convicted.
- Indecent exposure is also added to the registry, more severe penalties if victim under 16.
- \$2 million for additional social workers still in budget.
- Governor's plan for CFT still in.

### **Child and Family Team Meetings**

From Susan and Tee The Family Centered Meeting project can help with setting up CFTs. They will come to your county and give TA for the CFT, even sit in on one or co-facilitate if you like.

- They list facilitator forum meetings on the MRS list serve (this meets quarterly) but you don't have to go to one of those to use their services.
- Services are **FREE** and not limited to current MRS counties.

- When Holly began talking to all the counties, one of the things a lot of counties talked about was CFTs.

How to do you get people there?

- Other professionals
  - Tee suggested having educational sessions beforehand about what CFTs are so that the professionals will know what its all about.
  - Offer to have the meeting at their office, maybe during the clients regular counseling session, or have them on speakerphone if meeting elsewhere.
- Families
  - They are more likely to come if there is a crisis.
  - They either bring a ton of people, or no one. (Some counties have tried asking them to bring the one person closest to them.)
- Other Providers
  - Some counties mandate it (if family is getting MH services and has MH issues, the DSS will mandate that MH be invited but will let the family set the parameters. Ex: they will only be there the first 20 minutes and DSS will restrict certain topics.).

Time Frames?

- Concern because sometimes you can t get all the necessary people to the table within the required time frame. (Tony pointed out you won t be reviewed for this until MRS is statewide.)
- Suggestion that since you have 45 days for case decision, you should have 45 days to have the first meeting.

CFT serving Dual Purposes:

- Tee is often asked if CFTs can count as other meetings. Since the answer was yes, she suggests we confirm this on the list serve.
- Some using them as PPAT meetings.
- When they are Shared Parenting meetings everyone in this group used social workers as facilitators.

CFT field kit

- Wake County developed a field kit that has a facilitator guide (agenda).
- They have one for just a DSS meeting and another that is designed for meetings where MH is included.
- Hold in-house training for staff, then they must hold at least 3 meeting with a partner or supervisor before they are on their own.
- Have gotten participant feedback from families and community partners to improve meetings.

Facilitators

- Who? Have lots of different people do this from part timers, full time position with other duties as well, contract workers, mediators from mediation center.

### Case Plan at CFT?

- Tee is often asked if the Case Plan is completed at the CFT who does it, the Social Worker or the Facilitator? Should be the SW.
- Question arose if everyone could just get a copy of the case plan so that SW and Facilitator are not both taking notes and there are 2 sets of notes. State says its ok to give copy of the case plan, but only if family agrees and confidentiality agreement is signed.

### CFT and DV 2 different case plans

- Some have tried having two CFT s or one person on the phone (but this is hard on the facilitators).
- What if its DV but Mom really wants Dad there? Document the safety issues and have Mom sign off on it.

### Professionals damaging relationship with Client

(Ex: Mom won t work with therapist anymore because she feels betrayed because he reported her.)

- Need to educate the professionals up front how to handle this. Social workers are a model for this. Social workers can address issues in a non-judgmental and non-threatening way so that they can still have a good working relationship let other professionals know that this is possible.

### Future Meetings

- Here in Wilson on 9/22, 10/24.
- Would like notes sent out on list-serve or email.
- Would like more tools on the web.
- Things counties would like to talk about at meetings:
  - Hear from workers (not just supervisors) in counties with blended cases.
  - When counties switch tracks why did they? What does it look like?
  - Educating the community for new counties, how should they go about this?